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February 1965

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Service
Animal Disease Eradication Division
Hyattsville, Maryland 20781

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UNIFORM METHODS AND RULES--TUBERCULOSIS ERADICATION
December 1964

Uniform Methods and Rules for the Establishment
and Maintenance of Tuberculosis-Free Accredited
Herds of Cattle, Modified Accredited Areas and Areas
Accredited Free of Bovine Tuberculosis in the Domestic Bovine

Adopted by the United States Livestock Sanitary
Association on October 18, 1963, and approved
by the Animal Disease Eradication
Division effective December 3, 1964

Part I: Definitions

1. "Accredited Herd" is one in which no reactors have been found on at least two consecutive annual tuberculin tests.

2. "Advanced tuberculosis" refers to carcasses of animals in which a lesion of tuberculosis (other than tuberculoid skin lesion) is found as a result of post-mortem examination.

3. "Annual tests" for purposes of herd accreditation means tests made within a period of not less than 11 nor more than 15 months.

4. An "Accredited establishment" is one at which supervised meat inspection is maintained at all hours when slaughter is in progress and post-mortem procedures meet recognized standards for the disclosure of lesions of tuberculosis and the procedures are adequate for maintaining the identity of individual cattle until inspection is completed.

5. A "Commercial dairy herd" is one composed of cattle of the recognized dairy breeds which produces milk that is marketed in any form for human consumption.

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6. "Modified Accredited Area" is a State or portion thereof in which the degree of infection does not exceed one-half of one percent.

7. A "Registered purebred herd" is one that maintains a minimum of 10 registered purebred cattle throughout the year and from which registered animals may be sold for breeding purposes.

Part II: Individual Accredited Herd Plan

1. (a) Classification of animals tested

(1) Reactors - "R"

Animals showing a P1 - X2 or greater response to the tuberculin on routine test should be classed as reactors unless in the professional judgment of the testing veterinarian a suspect classification is justified. In herds with known tuberculosis all animals that respond to the tuberculin test will be classified as reactors.

(2) Suspects - "S"

This classification is to be used for animals showing any response at point of injection not classified as reactors, with the exception noted below.

(3) Negatives - "N"

Animals showing no tissue disturbance at site of injection will be classed as negatives. Animals showing a minimal tissue response (pp or x) in herds which contain no reactors on the current test, and in which bovine tuberculosis has not been demonstrated on previous tests may be classed as negatives.

Decisions will be based upon the professional judgment of the testing veterinarian in accordance with the policy established in a given area by the cooperating State and Federal officials.

(b) Herds in which reactors occur shall be quarantined and must pass a negative tuberculin test after a period of at least 60 days to be released from quarantine. If there are pathologic lesions considered bovine tuberculosis in one or more reactors or such lesions are found in non-reactors at slaughter

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in animals traceable directly to a herd, at least two negative tests at intervals of not less than 60 days will be required for release of quarantine.

(c) All herds in which bovine tuberculosis occurs shall be retested in approximately 12 months but not more than 15 months following the first negative test after disclosure of reactors. At this time, the herd may be accredited or reaccredited if it otherwise qualifies. These tests are to be followed by at least two annual herd tests.

(d) When suspects to the tuberculin test are disclosed in herds not containing reactors, such animals shall be immediately restricted to the premises. The accredited herd status shall be immediately restricted to the premises. The accredited herd status shall be suspended, and no movement of animals from the herd permitted except under permit issued by the cooperating State authorities until the status of the herd is determined.

(e) Suspects may be sold by permit only for immediate slaughter at an accredited establishment or retained under restriction for a 60 to 120-day retest. If the suspects are removed for slaughter without retest, or are not slaughtered at an accredited establishment, the herd shall be retested in not less than two, nor more than six months from the date the suspects were disclosed.

(f) Tuberculin tests shall be applied by a veterinarian employed in a full-time capacity by the State, the Animal Disease Eradication Division, ARS, or by an accredited veterinarian. All tuberculin tests are official tests. A report of all tuberculin tests, including a record of all responses, shall be submitted in accordance with the requirements of the cooperating State and Federal authorities. These officials reserve the right to supervise any test conducted by an accredited veterinarian.

2. The official tuberculin test shall be the intradermic test. The intradermic injection of tuberculin in the cervical area is indicated for use only under the direct supervision of full-time employed State or Federal veterinarians in herds where advanced tuberculosis has been disclosed.

3. The entire herd, or any cattle in the herd, shall be tuberculin tested or retested at such times as are deemed advisable by the Cooperating State and Federal authorities.

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4. No animal that has been designated as a reactor at any time shall be retested.

5. (a) Reactors to the tuberculin test shall be removed from the farm in accordance with State and Federal laws and regulations. After their removal, the infected premises shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with a disinfectant permitted by the Animal Disease Eradication Division, ARS, USDA, and in a manner satisfactory to the cooperating State and Federal authorities.

(b) A complete epidemiological survey shall be made on all herds in which reactors are disclosed, by appropriate State or Federal personnel.

6. Herd additions must originate directly from one of the following: (a) Tuberculosis-accredited herd. (b) An area accredited free of bovine tuberculosis in the domestic bovine. (c) A herd (not under quarantine) in a modified accredited area tested and found negative within 12 months. (d) Herds (not under quarantine) in modified accredited areas if the individual animals pass a negative test within 30 days of entering the premises.

7. To qualify for accredited herd status all animals must be bona fide members of the herd as attested by a certificate issued jointly by the local State and Federal officials. The accredited herd status may be valid for not more than 1 year (365 days) from the date of the qualifying herd test. To qualify for reaccreditation the herd must pass a negative test within a period of 15 months from the last previous accreditation test.

8. Owners of accredited herds shall be required to maintain such environmental conditions as are consistent with the generally accepted standards of good sanitation and herd management. The use of milk or other dairy products for feeding is prohibited unless such products are from a known safe supply or have been pasteurized or sterilized. Identity shall be provided by ear-tag or other satisfactory means for all animals and complete records must be kept of all additions to the herd. Only properly cleaned and disinfected vehicles may be used for transporting cattle into accredited herds.

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9. Failure on the part of an owner to comply with these methods and rules shall constitute sufficient cause for revocation of the accredited herd certificate.

Part III: Modified Accredited Area Plan

10. The provisions of the individual accredited herd plan that relate to testing, quarantine, removal of reactors, cleaning, disinfecting, sanitation, and epidemiology shall apply to the modified accredited area plan, except that in routine area testing all cattle twenty-four (24) months of age or over shall be tested. In herds with bovine tuberculosis all cattle shall be tested.

11. An area may be accredited or reaccredited for a period of six years provided that:

(a) All commercial dairy herds are tested.

(b) All registered purebred herds that are maintained under confinement at any period of the year are tested.

If a record is maintained indicating that an annual average of at least five percent of the cattle over two years of age in a herd have been slaughtered at accredited establishments and identified to the originating herd, such a herd record may be substituted for the testing required in (a) and (b). This substitution may be made if the record is continuous and has been in effect in excess of one year.

(c) All cattle in herds of origin or cattle associated with those showing evidence of tuberculosis at time of slaughter are immediately tested.

(d) All herds found with tuberculosis within the past 12 years are tested.

(e) Other cattle as may be considered necessary by the State and Federal cooperating officials are tested.

(f) The testing schedule of all reactor and suspect herds is current at the time of accreditation or reaccreditation.

(g) The total number of reactors found in the area on the last test of each herd during the reaccreditation period does not exceed 0.5 percent of the cattle tested.

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12. An area may be reaccredited for a period of six years provided that:

- (a) Reports are produced showing that during each year at least five percent of the cattle over two years of age in the area as determined by statistics of the SRS, or a total of 30 percent during the six-year period, have been subjected to a meat inspection examination at an accredited establishment and can be identified with the herd of origin.
- (b) All cattle in herds of origin, or cattle associated with those showing evidence of tuberculosis at time of slaughter, are immediately tuberculin tested.
- (c) All herds found with tuberculosis within the past 12 years are tested.
- (d) Other cattle as may be considered necessary by the State and Federal cooperating officials are tested.
- (e) The testing schedule of all reactor and suspect herds is current at the time of accreditation or reaccreditation.
- (f) The total number of reactors found in the area on the last test of each herd during the reaccreditation period does not exceed 0.5 percent of the cattle tested.

Part IV: Accredited Tuberculosis Free Areas (Mycobacterium Bovis in Cattle)

A state, a county, or a block of several counties, which is part of a progressive plan for complete state coverage may be declared Accredited Tuberculosis Free (*M. bovis* in cattle) if the State complies with all the provisions of this part and no bovine tuberculosis has been found during the periods indicated.

13. (a) During the three-year period from effective date of this part, an area may be declared accredited Tuberculosis Free (*M. bovis* in cattle) if during two or more reaccreditation periods that cover at least twelve successive years, no Bovine Tuberculosis has been found.

or

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(b) The cooperating State and Federal officials have declared an intent to qualify an area for free status and have records showing that during at least three successive years not less than 5% of the cattle over two years of age, or a total of 15% or more during the three year period have been identified from each individual herd to slaughter at an accredited establishment. All cattle 24 months of age or older in herds that do not meet this requirement shall be free of reactors to a tuberculin test applied within the qualifying three-year period.

or

(c) A state may qualify for free status if during a period of two successive years 30 percent of the cattle population over two years of age have been identified from the state and slaughtered at accredited establishments.

or

(d) An area may qualify for free status if official records show that all cattle in the area over two years of age, except as described in Paragraph 20-C have had at least two successive tests not less than three but not more than six years apart.

14. Any pathologic (granulomatous) lesion in cattle suspected of being tuberculosis will be considered bovine tuberculosis unless a satisfactory examination at an approved laboratory justifies a diagnosis other than bovine-type tuberculosis.

15. In the event that tuberculosis is disclosed or suspected the provisions of the individual accredited herd plan that relate to testing, quarantine, removal of reactors, cleaning, disinfection, sanitation, and epidemiology shall apply.

16. All cattle in herds from which infected animals originate and cattle within the area that have associated with those found to be infected shall be promptly tested. Discovery of tuberculosis upon a premise shall be followed by a complete epidemiological investigation and every effort made to assure the immediate elimination of the disease from all species of domestic livestock and poultry.

17. State laws and/or regulations are in effect that provide for the testing of any animal or herd when deemed necessary by the State-Federal Cooperating officials.

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18. Bovine tuberculosis found by Meat Inspection examination or otherwise in any bovine traceable to an Accredited Free area will be considered to have originated from that area unless satisfactory records are available to definitely show that the subject animal had originated from a specific place outside the Accredited Free area.

19. Dealer control laws or regulations that require the identification of cattle and records of transactions for each animal purchased and sold are enforced.

20. Cattle moved in channels of trade within a state having a free area shall be identified and recorded as to origin and destination at the first concentration point (dealer, livestock auction, stockyard, etc.,) as follows:

(a) Cattle that are returned to farms or ranches, including feeding cattle, shall be identified by permanent official ear-tag or be branded cattle for intrastate movement only when accompanied by an official brand release.

(b) Cattle that are marketed for immediate slaughter shall be identified by permanent ear tag, sales tag, or official back tag. An official brand release will be acceptable identification for lots of animals of unmixed origin that are shipped directly to slaughter.

(c) Cattle without individual identification may be moved directly to and maintained in a quarantined feed-lot under control of the state livestock sanitary officials, provided they are inspected on the premises and are moved to slaughter to accredited establishments under permit at the end of the feeding period.

21. Cattle moved for purposes other than for immediate slaughter into areas accredited free of bovine tuberculosis in the domestic bovine or areas in the process of attaining this status shall meet one of the following requirements:

(a) Cattle properly identified and moved directly into the Free area from another Accredited Free area.

(b) Cattle properly identified and moved directly into the Free area from a tuberculosis-accredited herd.

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(c) Cattle from a modified accredited area that are properly identified and moved directly from a herd not under quarantine and have individually passed a negative test within 30 days of entering the premises. The cooperating state and federal officials may waive the thirty (30) day test if the herd of origin has been actively covered by a screening procedure where during a three year period 15% of the cattle over two years of age have been identified from the individual herd through slaughter at an accredited establishment.

(d) Feeder cattle from a modified accredited area properly identified and recorded as to herd of origin and maintained under quarantine until slaughtered at an accredited establishment.

22. No animal that has reacted or is "suspicious" to a tuberculin test or is otherwise suspected of being infected with bovine tuberculosis shall be moved into an accredited free area for any purpose except as a direct shipment to slaughter accompanied by an official permit. Such animal movement must be subjected to the following conditions:

- (a) Transported in vehicles with slaughter animals only.
- (b) If unloaded in transit, they must use premises and facilities where only slaughter animals are accommodated.
- (c) All vehicles and facilities unless used solely for slaughter animals must be cleaned and disinfected before being used again for other livestock.

23. All commercial slaughtering establishments in the area shall qualify as accredited establishments. However, establishments where not more than fifty thousand pounds of cattle (on a live-weight basis) are slaughtered in any calendar week may be exempt from this requirement.

24. Disclosure of extensive or spreading bovine tuberculosis in an accredited Tuberculosis free area and/or failure to take active steps to eliminate any tuberculosis found shall constitute sufficient cause for revocation of the accredited tuberculosis free status.

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25. Unless an area is disqualified, it may maintain its status of Bovine Tuberculosis free in the Domestic Bovine for a period of six years provided (a) that during this six year period 5% of the cattle over two years of age or 30% over a six year period have been identified from each individual herd direct to an accredited establishment. All cattle 24 months of age or over in herds that do not meet this requirement shall be tuberculin tested within the requalifying six year period.

(b) A state may maintain its status of accredited tuberculosis free (M. bovis in cattle) for a period of six years provided that during the six year period a number equal to 90% of the cattle population over two years of age have been identified from the state through slaughter at an accredited establishment.





